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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LAS VEGAS, ORLANDO, AND BILOXI RANKED AS TOP THREE U.S. EMERGING TRAVEL DESTINATIONS**

GULFPORT, Miss., August 14 – The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) / Fodor's Annual Hot Spot Survey ranked Biloxi number three on the "up-and-coming" travel destinations list preceded only by Las Vegas and Orlando.

"It is great that more and more people are recognizing the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a tourism destination," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

For the second straight year the American Society of Travel Agents named Biloxi in their survey of popular travel spots as determined by client bookings.

"As part of the greater Mississippi Gulf Coast, Biloxi has something for everyone, whether visitors are taking a trip for two or bringing the entire family," said Joe Galloway, ASTA president and CEO. "More and more travel agents and visitors are discovering that Biloxi is truly the 'playground of the South.'"

*Travel Weekly*, a travel industry publication published the elite list in their August 3<sup>rd</sup> issue. The annual study is collaboration between ASTA and Fodor's Travel Publications.

With so many appealing features it is little wonder the Gulf Coast has attracted travel interest as an emerging pleasure destination, as well as national media recognition. Long regarded as an ideal vacation site, the Mississippi Gulf Coast offers 26 miles of sugar white beaches, championship deep-sea fishing, exciting casinos and entertainment, regional cuisine and Southern hospitality.

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